

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An expanded ink supply system for an inkjet printer having a print carriage and print heads that moves in relation to a print medium and at least one ink cartridge inside said printer, said print cartridge having an inner part holding a first quantity of ink in an inner part ink fill port , comprising:

an ink container locatable outside said printer body for containing a second quantity of ink;

tubing means for transferring ink from said ink container to said cartridge via said cartridge fill port;

10 said tubing extending out through said fill port of said ink cartridge thereby fluidically connecting between said cartridge and said ink container at its location outside the body of said printer;

whereby said ink in said cartridge is supplemented by ink transferred from said ink container.

2. The expanded ink supply as claimed in claim 1 wherein the ink in the cartridge is in fluid connection with the ink contained in the container external to the inkjet printer.

19 3. The expanded ink supply as claimed in claim 1 wherein the ink container is in the form of a bag containing said ink located at a height above the ink fill port of the print cartridge; and means to support said bag at said height.

4. The expanded ink supply as claimed in claim 1 including a bag support

- 1 attachable to the printer to support at least one ink bag fluidically connected to the ink container, at a height above said ink fill port .
5. The expanded ink supply as claimed in claim 1 wherein said ink container is in the form of a bag and wherein said bag is adapted to be inserted underneath said printer whereby to apply the mass of said printer to said bag for delivery of ink therefrom to said cartridge.
6. The expanded ink supply as claimed in claim 4 and including means to
10 structurally support and attach at least one ink container to a separate stand not attached to the printer.
7. The expanded ink supply as claimed in claim 4 wherein said support is attachable to said printer by support clips, and including a cover removable placeable over said support.
8. The expanded ink supply as claimed in claim 7 wherein, the ink container is horizontally disposed on a compressible medium and said ink container, and a pressure
19 plate inserted between said printer and said ink container.
9. The expanded ink supply as claimed in claim 1 including:
a fitting adapted to be inserted into the ink fill port in the print cartridge to allow

1 the fluid conduit free passage.

10. The expanded ink supply system of claim 5 wherein the print cartridge comprises a casing, and a transparent cap for said casing to allow the user to check the amount of ink remaining in the cartridge.

11. A method of supplying make up ink to an ink cartridge in an ink jet printer, said cartridge having an ink fill port, and comprising the steps of connecting an ink container to said fill port of said ink cartridge of an ink jet printer, applying pressure to said ink in
10 said ink container whereby to cause said ink to flow from said ink container to said ink cartridge.

12. A method supplying to make up ink to an ink cartridge in an ink jet printer, as claimed in claim 11 and further including the steps of venting air from said ink cartridge prior to admitting said make up ink thereto.

13. A method supplying to make up ink to an ink cartridge in an ink jet printer, as claimed in claim 11 wherein said cartridge has a flexible diaphragm and including the
19 steps of holding the cartridge so that any air inside the cartridge will be stored in the immediate vicinity of the cartridge ink fill port, and activating said flexible diaphragm to pressurize the air, and turning the cartridge right side up to allow any air ingested into the cartridge to rise.

1 14. A method supplying to make up ink to an ink cartridge in an ink jet printer, as claimed in claim 11 and further including the steps of heating the make up ink .

15. A method supplying to make up ink to an ink cartridge in an ink jet printer, as claimed in claim 13 and including the step of immersing the ink container in a medium at a higher temperature than room temperature.

16. A method supplying to make up ink to an ink cartridge in an ink jet printer, as claimed in claim 11 and including the steps of threading said fill port and screwing a
10 connection fitting into said fill port.

17. An expanded ink supply system for an inkjet printer having a print carriage and print heads that move in parallel in relation to a print medium and a plurality of detachably removable print cartridges inside said printer, each of said print cartridges having a casing, an end cap and an inner part holding a first quantity of ink in a containment, the inner part further having a pump mechanism with a check valve and a depressible diaphragm for operating said mechanism, an inner part fill port blocked by a stopper and a septum, and comprising a plurality of ink containers;;

19 tubing for transferring liquid ink from said containers to said inner part, a connection fitting in each said inner part fill port;

said tubing being attached to said fittings to fluidically connect to said ink containers

1 located outside the body of said printer;

18. The expanded ink supply as claimed in claim 17, wherein said ink containers each comprise:

a collapsible bag with a bag outlet port located at a height above the inner part fill port of the cartridge; and means to support said ink containers adjacent to edge of said printer.

10 19. The expanded ink supply as claimed in claim 17 wherein said ink container comprises:

an ink bag with an outlet at a height below the inner part fill port of the print cartridge; mass means on said bag to force the liquid ink to the higher level of said inner part fill port.

20. The expanded ink supply system as claimed in claim 17 wherein each said cartridge is continuously replenished through said inner part fill ports while in operation
19 inside a print cartridge compartment inside said printer.